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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 510, DECEMBER 23, 4 PM

SENT BONN 454, DEPARTMENT 510; REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 156,
LONDON 86, PARIS 118*Em: Ger: graft TDM/ek*

BONN PASS POLAD USAREUR 159.

PARIS ALSO PASS THURSTON AND WEST.

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN WEST BERLIN DER ABEND DEC 1:

BEGIN TEXT

GENERAL HODES: "I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO"

"WE HAVE MILITARY PLANS FOR ANY SITUATION WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN BERLIN. SHOULD THERE BE AN ATTACK ON BERLIN, THIS WOULD BE A MILITARY PROBLEM; I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE TO DO THEN." THIS DECLARATION WAS MADE YESTERDAY BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF US FORCES IN EUROPE, FOUR STAR GENERAL HODES, AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN US HEADQUARTERS IN DAHLEM. ANY INIMICAL ACTION AGAINST US GARRISON IN BERLIN WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS ATTACK ON US ITSELF.

"BY THE WAY, I DO NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY ALL THE THINGS WHICH THE COMMUNISTS SAY. I HAVE KNOWN THEM LONG ENOUGH." WITH THESE WORDS GEN HODES COMMENTED ON THE LATEST SOV NOTE.

FOR SECURITY REASONS HODES DID NOT ANNOUNCE DETAILS ON MILITARY PLANS OF ACTION FOR BERLIN. HE ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD BEEN WORKED UPON IN CLOSEST COOPERATION WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.

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-2- 510, DECEMBER 23, 74 PM FROM BERLIN

HODES EMPHASIZED HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO INCREASE 4000-MAN US GARRISON. GEN HODES CALLED THE TWO US FIGHTING GROUPS AND TANK UNIT STATIONED IN BERLIN "PARTICULARLY WELL TRAINED TROOPS."

THE GEN STRESSED HE WOULD CONSIDER ANY SOV ATTEMPT HINDER AMERICANS FROM FREE ACCESS TO BERLIN AS AN ENROACHMENT WHICH HE COULD NOT ACCEPT.

END TEXT.

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